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CONSIDINE'S 'ON THE LINE' ...

Reds Visit A 'Work' Camp

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HARTFORD—We were in what must be the world's cleanest migrant workers' camp, run by the Shade Tobacco Growers Agricultural Association, Inc., near here. The flags of the U.S., Puerto Rico, Jamaica (black, yellow, green) and the Union Jack of the Commonwealth of the British West Indies fluttered proudly at the entrance.

The Russian group we were accompanying had some questions to ask an unusually muscular M.L.T. man named Mark R. Kravitz, who runs the 700-man (plus dependents) camp for the Growers. They had just been walked through a room in which perhaps 50 assorted workers were watching a television show.

"Isn't it dangerous for these people to watch your westerns,

your gangster shows, and other such shows where there is so much shooting and use of knives and other weapons that there is one death each minute on American television?" asked a Russian delegate named Viktor Sokolov.

It was a tough spot for Mr. Kravitz, but he answered swiftly.

Wrong Question, Place

"WE HAVE many shows on American TV," he said. "We have comedies, music, education, sports, everything. Maybe if you turned the station dial in a certain way you could find a murder every minute, but I doubt it. These people know that the shootings they see are make-believe. I've been in this place for a couple of years and there's never been a fist fight; much less a knifing."

It was a challenge to the Russian, and a moment of silence followed.

M. J. Parshikow, head of the delegation, stepped into this void. "The question is not put to the proper man," he said with a suave smile at Mr. Kravitz. "This question should be directed to the producers of the television shows."

The Russians showed great curiosity about the workers. As we walked into the camp's dining room and came upon a table of them eating white-fish and rice ("It's Friday," Mr. Kravitz explained) every Russian waved in friendly style to the migrants, none of whom could speak English. None of us waved, embarrassingly enough.

Asks About Union

"CAN THE men who work here have a union?" Mr. Sokolov asked. He is a non-union member, if we can hazard a guess.

"No, there is no union involved," Mr. Kravitz answered. "They are guaranteed certain things under their contract: Fifty per cent of their round-trip passage, free medical care, a minimum of a dollar-five an hour, two meals a day in the cafeteria and all they can eat and a box lunch for the fields at fourteen dollars a week, free housing, TV, hi-fi, lots of things."

"But no representation," the Russian insisted.

"The Puerto Ricans have a Puerto Rican government representative living here to present their complaints, if any," the American answered. "The British West Indian people have a man of their own here, too."

"Elected by them?" Mr. Sokolov pressed.

"No, by the governments," the American said.

There was a pained pause, then much handshaking and farewelling.

Comments On Smoking

We asked Mr. Parshikow if there was as much talk about lung cancer's possible association with smoking in Russia as there is in the U. S. The cheerful member of the State Planning Committee USSR Council of Ministers shrugged.

"Smoke is not good for people essentially," said the man who is trying to build up Soviet smoking by embracing U. S. techniques. "Take smoked sausage, for instance. No good. Take the smoke that comes off asphalt roads. No good. Take the smoke that comes from exhaust pipes. No good."

"Like you, we continue our studies."

(More, more or less.)

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WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
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7 Touring Russians Satisfied With Tour

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — On record, the seven Russians inspecting the Kentucky tobacco industry said Friday they are very satisfied with their tour.

The Russians, who visited farms and warehouses in the bluegrass country earlier this week, were taken on a whirlwind tour of two Louisville cigarette factories.

Whisked through Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co by finger-snapping executives, the delegation looked very thoroughly at what they saw and some took notes.

They didn't see the trade secret blending operation—the final flavor injection that makes American cigarettes popular the world over. Such formulas never are disclosed.

Asked if American cigarettes were sold in Russia, Anatoli Sokolov replied, "To regret, no."

The leader, Mikhail Parshikov, had these comments on the tour:

The group is very satisfied with the tour and glad to visit America.

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